

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 21 and 29 are in independent form. Claims 2-20 and 31 depend from claim 1, claims 22-28 and 32 depend from claim 21 and claim 30 depends from claim 29. Claims 31-36 are new.

In the office action dated September 9, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-14, 17, 19, 21-24 and 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable under the Sygate Personal Firewall Pro User Guide XP-002248366 (Sygate). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sygate and further in view of Vilhuber (U.S. Patent No. 6,748,543). Claims 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sygate. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sygate and further in view of Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,289). Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sygate and further in view of Chen (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0054860). Claim 15 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but was found to include allowable subject matter.

Sygate discloses a firewall that runs on a computer acting as a "bouncer" (Sygate at 11), monitoring traffic to and from the computer through the computer's network connection. An application is configured in the firewall such that it either has access to the network(s) the computer is attached to, or it does not. On page 42 of Sygate, Sygate discloses for a firewall the access handling (e.g., allow, ask or block) for only a single communication connection (e.g. an Internet connection). In contrast, claim

1 recites that a plurality of communication connections (e.g., a corporate LAN, the Internet) is involved for communicating with other devices.

Still further, on page 57 of Sygate, Sygate may disclose what connection control information should exist on a computer level or a user level, but does not provide any disclosure of connection control information on an application level. In contrast, claim 1 recites that the connection control information is on an application level (e.g., "the connection control information including an association between the software application and one or more of the communication connections").

As an example, a connection request to one logical or physical connection may be permitted for an application, but a second connection request to a different logical or physical connection may be denied, thereby preventing the application from sharing confidential information from an internal network with an external network.

Claims 11 and 23 have been amended, and claim 35 has been added to further define a connection request, such that the connection request is a request for use of a network physical transport layer. Examples of physical transport layers that may be the subject of a connection request are recited in new claims 31, 32 and 36 (e.g., USB, wireless networks). Sygate does not disclose a system and method of connection control wherein a connection request is a request for use of a particular physical transport layer.

Furthermore with respect to claim 11, the assignee respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of "installation." Sygate only discloses determining connection control information associated with software applications on a system at the

time of installation of the Sygate firewall software (Sygate at 44). In contrast, claim 11 recites determining connection control information associated with a software application at the time the software application (which will be requesting access to one or more communication connections) is installed.

Further, the "type" as referred to in claim 11 refers to the type of connection or connections that are permissible for each software application, not the actual permission. Sygate may teach associating a permission with each of the software applications on the computer, but Sygate does not teach associating one or more connection types with the software application, whereby there may be a permission for access or not.

Claim 33 has been newly added to further define the connection control information to include one or more connection types.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the assignee respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application for allowance of claims 1-36.

Respectfully submitted,

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